

Serial No.: 09/877,684
Group Art Unit: 2633
Examiner: Alex H. Chan

Amendments in the Specification

Please replace paragraph 42, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a! FIGURE 2 is a close-up block diagram of a space switch 19 in an optical space switch block 18 of FIGURE 1. As shown in FIGURE 1 2, each optical space switch block 18 contains from 1 to N space switches 19 ~~splitters 51~~. Space switch splitters 51 shown in Figure 1 split each of the incoming WDM input signals 11 into up to n identical signals and route these signals, one each, to each of 1 to n space switches 19 along signal lines 52. Each of the 1 to n space switches 19 within each space switch block 18 thus receives as an input each of the 1 to N input WDM signals 11. Each space switch 19 within each space switch block 18 will process the 1 to N input WDM signals 11 and output a selected wavelength data packet. The wavelength selected for output from each of the space switches 19 can change as determined by control inputs from control unit 20.